What is claimed is:

    1.   A memory device carrying a set of instructions which, when executed, perform a method comprising:

        receiving user information;

        unlocking certain doors of a dispensing cabinet in response to said user information;

        receiving mode information identifying a locate mode;

        receiving information identifying an item to be located;

        flashing a display positioned on a shelf within the cabinet with the number of items held by that shelf which are to be located;

        receiving a log off instruction; and

        locking the unlocked doors.

    2.   The memory device of claim 1 additionally comprising the step of receiving patient information.

    3.   A memory device carrying a set of instructions which, when executed, perform a method comprising:

        receiving user information;

        unlocking certain doors of a dispensing cabinet in response to said user information;

        receiving patient information;

        receiving mode information identifying a locate mode;

        receiving information identifying an item to be located;

        flashing a display positioned on a shelf within the cabinet with the number of items held by that shelf which are to be located;

        receiving information selecting a compartment;

        zeroing the display in response to the selection of a compartment;

        receiving the number of items taken from the selected compartment;

        displaying the number of items taken on the display;

        receiving a log off instruction; and

        locking the unlocked doors.

    4.   A memory device carrying a set of instructions which, when executed, perform a method comprising:

        receiving user information;

unlocking certain doors of a dispensing cabinet in response to said user information;

receiving information identifying a query mode;

receiving information identifying an item for which information is sought;

displaying information for the identified item;

receiving a log off instruction; and

locking the unlocked doors.

5.   The memory device of claim 4 additionally comprising the step of receiving patient information.

6.   A memory device carrying a set of instructions which, when executed, perform a method comprising:

receiving user information;

unlocking certain doors of the dispensing cabinet in response to said user information;

receiving patient information;

receiving information identifying a query mode;

receiving information identifying an item for which information is sought;

displaying information for the identified item;

receiving information selecting a compartment;

receiving information identifying the number of items taken from the selected compartment;

displaying the number of items taken on a display;

receiving a log off instruction; and

locking the unlocked doors.